

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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OPC Protests Marcos Shutdown of News Media

President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines was sent a sharp protest in December by OPC president **Anita Diamant** when news publications in his country were shut down and editors and other employees arrested.

"We call on you to maintain your country's march from martial law to full democracy, to recognize that right to dissent is essential to democracy."

And no sooner was word received that Argentina had shut down several magazines than **Norman Schorr**, co-chairman of OPC's Freedom of Press Committee, had a letter off to President Renaldo Bignone protesting the act and urging its reversal. He recalled promises by the President to respect press freedom and called on him "to be vigorous in defending free press which is an essential bulwark of democracy."

Jimmie Kilgallen

Our own **Jimmie Kilgallen** died a few days before Christmas. He was 94. In his time he was one of the world's great reporters. He thought there was "no business like the newspaper business." Damon Runyan said of him that he was an editor's dream of a reporter.

Jimmie spent 38 years with INS. He covered every kind of story and went everywhere over the world. "In what other business," he asked, "would I have had such action?"

Jimmie started newspapering in Chicago at 15 with the *Chicago Daily Farmers and Drivers Journal*. He also worked for the *Chicago Tribune*, the AP and UP. In Laramie, Wyoming, he was part owner of the *Daily Boomerang*. He was managing editor of the *Indianapolis Times*. He finished up with the Hearst Headline Service, working until two years ago.

Surviving are Mae, his wife of 70 years, a daughter, some grandchildren and great grandchildren. His daughter Dorothy Kilgallen, herself famous as a reporter and columnist, died in 1965.

Moscow Memories Now Bring Smiles



Four former ambassadors to Moscow get together at OPC reunion. L/R: Thomas J. Watson, Malcolm Toon, Jacob Beam and Walter Stoessel.

The OPC Moscow correspondents' reunion at the Armory Jan. 14 was a success beyond even the organizers' dreams.

More than 120 guests, nearly half of them bona fide former correspondents whose coverage of the Soviet Union spanned more than four decades, attended the dinner affair.

"It was the best of the lot," said reunion veteran **Ed Cunningham**, who had lent his expertise to the committee organizers.

"Even I had a good time," said **Whit Bassow**, who headed the three-man committee with other Moscow veterans **Henry Cassidy** and **George Krinsky** and acted as toastmaster.

Walter Cronkite, who covered the postwar era for UPI, told the assemblage: "Never before in modern history has there been a greater gathering of experts with so little a base of expertise."

The gathering fairly bubbled with nostalgia and camaraderie (or is it comraderie?). **Cassidy**, who covered the wartime years for AP, met his old pal Leo Grulow that evening for the first time in 39 years. "We were good friends back then. We recognized one another immediately," Cassidy beamed.

Four former ambassadors were

honored guests at the event: Jacob Beam, Walter Stoessel, Malcolm Toon and Thomas Watson Jr. (in order of service). They all spoke briefly, with only Watson taking advantage of a captive audience of news hounds to press his political philosophy: Washington and Moscow are on a "collision course," he said.

In addition to Cronkite, speaking on the postwar Stalin era, those former correspondents to speak were Farnsworth Fowle, formerly of CBS and *The New York Times*, speaking on the war years; B.J. Cutler of Hearst, who opened the *Herald Tribune's* Moscow bureau, speaking on the Khrushchev years; **Bernie Redmont**, formerly of CBS and now head of Boston University's School of Communications, speaking on the Brezhnev era; and Walt Wisniewski, current UPI bureau manager in Moscow, speaking on the Andropov period.

— George Krinsky

The Club will be closed on Washington's Birthday, Monday, Feb. 21.

Watching the Watchdogs Watch the Press

OPC sponsored a "Shop Talk" panel on Oct. 21, "Watching the Watchdogs." Five specialists on U.S. media addressed the question of press accountability in a provocative discussion moderated by Bill Arthur, executive director of the National News Council.

The panelists were Lou Boccardi, executive editor and vice president of The Associated Press; Dick Cunningham, associate director of the National News Council; Robert McCloskey, ombudsman of the *Washington Post*; and George Watson, vice president of ABC News and executive in charge of the program "Viewpoint."

Here are excerpts culled by **George Krimsky** from the 90-minute discussion:

Arthur: One of the first questions posed by the *Bulletin* is, who should monitor the media, itself, an independent organization, the public, the government? You and I know the answer to that question . . . just about everybody monitors the media. There are all kinds of monitors. I invite you to examine pages 473-480 in the Washington telephone directory . . . There you will find 26½ columns listing (monitoring) organizations whose names begin with the word National. The press is bombarded by monitors . . . this bombardment is occurring on an increasingly dangerous basis, dangerous in so far as a free press is concerned. How do you maintain a vigorous press, a true watchdog of the public interest, in the face of such bombardment?

Boccardi: . . . It seems to me there is a great deal more questioning now of what we do than there was 10 or 15 years ago . . . this business of credibility and criticism and questioning of the role of the press isn't something we invented with Vietnam or Watergate. It's been there for a long time, I think it's much more intense now, primarily because the media are more visible now . . . I'm not sure that's a good thing. I think it would be easier to do our jobs better if we were somehow a little less central. I think television is the main reason for that centrality and celebrity . . . I think that as a profession we have *not* done a good job telling readers and viewers why we do what we do. I think what Mr. Watson does and Bob McCloskey and all the things that are being done by newspapers and broadcasters to try to explain ourselves better are all for the good . . . In AP's particular case, I have 1,353 bosses — at least that was the count when I left — of newspapers we serve, and something like 3,500 radio and television stations. Every day one or two or five of them know they could have done something better than I did. And some days they are right. So getting a reaction to what we do and monitoring what we do isn't really a problem . . . the managing editors of the newspapers we serve every year appoint about 20 committees, from a dozen to 20 editors each, to study everything we do and write reports about it and publish those reports . . . this is very closely involved in monitoring what we do, both to make sure that we are accurate, fair, credible but also that we don't lose the vigor they expect from the AP.

Watson: . . . We are at present about where Abe Raskin was when he wrote about the unshakable slovenliness of the press in 1967. We have become somewhat slowly aware that this is our reputation and that perhaps we have not been as responsive to our critics as we ought to have been, and that we have lacked the broadcasting equivalence of an op-ed page and letters-to-the-editor column, and that, in short, we have *not* done a very good job of explaining ourselves . . . we discover that there is quite a bit of criticism, questioning and out-and-out opposition to what we are doing.

I have not yet reached the stage that Bill Arthur appeared to be at, when he talked about the increasingly dangerous bombardment we are subjected to by critics. But I do think that is a danger. And I am personally concerned that, in

our efforts to be responsive, to clean up our own act, we do *not* sand off all the abrasive qualities that have served a vigorous press in this country very well.

I am really not the representative of the viewers of ABC news. I am the member of the management of ABC news who has been charged with maintaining the internal controls over the quality of what we do and addressing issues that I hope we raise even among ourselves.

McCloskey: I am called ombudsman, an internal critic to evaluate the news coverage of the paper for fairness, accuracy and relevance. I'm *not* sure I figured that last one out yet, but then I have only been there a year; I am a slow learner. Bill Arthur, I am struck by your reference to all of the organizations in Washington and the Washington Telephone Directory who are monitors. Many of those organizations exist to monitor the government. They are not only in Washington to monitor the press.

There are about 35 metropolitan dailies in the U.S. who have this creature ombudsman. Most of them that I know about are people from inside the organization. And there is a debate one could make over whether it's better to have somebody from the inside who knows more of the intricacies by which the news is put together daily. I think the advantage of an outsider is that he is more apt to call it as he sees it.

I won't hesitate to pick a fight with the editors of the *Washington Post* if I think they have been wrong, and I have done it publicly. I guess, in general, I am impressed — having come back to the shores just a year ago — that there is a serious self-examination going on . . . At the same time I recognize that someone like Abe Rosenthal from *The New York Times* argued in answer to a question whether his newspaper needs an ombudsman: "That is *not* what we need. What we need are better editors." I think that is a perfectly defensible position, so long as he means what he says. I look at the corrections run by *The New York Times* day in and day out, and I regret to say that they are still correcting addresses. Not a hell of a lot more. The *Post* is correcting more important things, more significant things. It is getting into more trouble than *The New York Times*, because it is *not* a carefully edited paper.

Cunningham: I will take my few minutes to talk about the News Council because you are a New York audience. I don't have to do this in Des Moines or Los Angeles but in New York I do, because you have precious little opportunity to read about the News Council. It's funny, but *The New York Times*, for philosophical reasons, decided when the Council was established in 1973 they were *not* going to cooperate with it. The philosophical reasons are an extension of the reason Bob McCloskey has suggested. Nevertheless, its editors have interpreted that philosophical position as: "We don't cover the News Council." The Council consists of 18 members, 10 of them public and eight of them connected with the media. It's an independent, non-governmental body and its concerns are (1) freedom of the press (2) credibility of the news media.

The Council was envisioned and recommended by the task force of the Twentieth Century Fund at a time when the freedom of the press seemed to be threatened by the criticisms of the Nixon administration.

Since 1973, the council and its staff have handled over 7,500 inquiries, which include complaints that have gone to the full Council for determination, complaints that didn't qualify under the Council's rules, which are very specific, and complaints that died for lack of follow-through on behalf of the complainant. Some 220 complaints have gone to the full Council for determination. Of that number, 71 complaints were found warranted and 111 were found unwarranted. It dismissed 38 of them. The ombudsman is *not* enough. You need a

news council for the one case out of a hundred where a complainer is *not* satisfied that he or she has been given a fair shake by the ombudsman, because the ombudsman after all does draw his or her paycheck from the newspaper.

Many news media go into a defensive crouch as soon as they are criticized and they do *not* believe that they survive the criticism unless they prove the critic wrong. I don't think that is the point. What they want is a thorough discussion at a responsible level of the complaints they have about the news media. And when they get that discussion, many of them go away saying "I didn't win it, but I sure did better understand how you worked."

(On the question of reporter expertise, particularly in the areas of business-finance and science.)

Watson: I think it's a problem. It certainly has been one, and I think in some ways it's likely to remain one as long as journalism encompasses every field of human endeavor. News organizations generally, and I know in the case of the network that I work for, that in both of those areas we have found and utilized people who have experience and specialized credentials in those fields.

Boccardi: I agree with you that it is a problem. I think it probably is less of a problem with the larger news organizations than with some of the others, but I don't mean to be smug. As far as science is concerned, we have five people who cover science full time; they are quite expert and are on call more or less all the time.

In the business area, I think we are all a little bit better, for major organizations anyway, than we were, say, ten years ago. We encourage training, workshops, some of the better fellowships are very useful. If any of you were to represent any specific endeavor and were to say to me, "Do you have enough experts in nuclear energy and oil?" We never have enough experts.

(On a question about crime reporting.)

Watson: In fact, the networks do *not* cover a great deal of crime news unless it has national implications.

The way we covered the Tylenol case is the way we cover any other major news event. We are obviously conscious of the implications of a story like that. I am afraid that is a problem we can't do a great deal about because the alternatives seem to be worse than the fact that it is a major story of considerable significance that we are obliged to report.

(On covering the Falklands and other wars.)

McCloskey: I guess I am more for letting it all hang out. Tell it as it is. I think the experience that the administration went through during Vietnam should have left the lesson that you had better tell it as it is, or you are going to have enormous difficulties.

Watson: One thing should be pointed out in connection with the Falklands situation. It was a dream situation for admirals and generals. You have an island which you could totally isolate from the press, and they did. Vietnam you could *not*. Korea you could *not*. The Middle East you could *not*.

(On the question of whether newspapers are prone to print complex stories at length and in depth.)

Boccardi: A publisher I once worked for said to me that the trouble with you damn editors is that you get bored with the story just when the readers get interested. And that stuck with me, because I think that there is an unfortunate bit of truth to it.

Arthur (in conclusion): Whenever journalists gather, they talk about pretty much the same problems we are talking about this evening. They spend endless hours, endless discussions about the problems of press credibility. I think that through such discussions we will be able to maintain a free press in this country.



UPIers recall their Moscow days: L/R Walter Wisniewski, UPI manager in Moscow; Peggy Polk, UPI, Washington; Ted Shields, Reuters, Washington; Walter Cronkite, retired, holds nameplate from UPI's bureau door.

It Was a Great Party !

Where were you on the Night of December 16, 1982? Think hard. If you weren't in the Bowman Room at OPC headquarters ushering in the Christmas season, you may not remember. But if you were, you couldn't forget the wealth of warm conviviality, the happy chink of glasses, nor the cascade of sound from 111 voices exchanging news, gossip and holiday greetings. Once again, the OPC opened the holiday season with food, drinks, gifts, and wall-to-wall members and their guests.

The Entertainment Committee, under the able leadership of **Gloria Watson**, arranged the party and set the Christmas mood. A huge fire burned in the fireplace, Patricia Genser's lovely lyric soprano filled the great room with Christmas carols. Tom Valvo accompanied her at the piano. He also generously provided mood music for the entire evening.

Lucky ticket-holders won many gifts — champagne and books and other assorted items too numerous to list here. To the donors who made those gifts possible the Club owes a large thanks for helping to make the evening so successful.

— Rosalind Moore

Alex Frere, UPI; Frank Melville, *Time/Fortune*; Peter Osnos, *Washington Post*; and Sanford Socolow, CBS News, executive committee.

'Gandhi' the Movie Of a Lifetime

All the superlatives critics and viewers are using to describe the motion picture "Gandhi" are true. It is not an exaggeration to call the pacifist who won India's independence from Great Britain and world renown for his courage the "man of the century," nor to refer to the faithful film of his good works as the "motion picture of a lifetime." Actor Ben Kingsley looked, talked and walked just as the Mahatma did, and his steady aging throughout the show was a miracle of makeup genius. He was superb. Overseas Press Club members fortunate enough to see the preview in December, courtesy of Columbia Pictures, surely experienced the OPC event of the year.

— Dwight Sargent

Placement

OPC member based in London, with extensive background in hotel, travel, convention fields, bilingual in French, Spanish, German, is available for special assignments Europe-wide. Is the son of famed longtime OPCer in Europe. Helen Alpert will forward all replies.

Freelance writers needed for new international magazine dealing with hospitals and health care. Non-technical, but experience covering the field is helpful. Send clips, letter to Editor, Intercontinental Publications, P.O. Box 5017, Westport, Conn. 06881.

LONDON — OPCer **Bill Milldyke**, ABC News director for Europe, Africa and the Middle East, has been elected president of the Association of American Correspondents in London, succeeding *Time's* Bonnie Angelo. Others elected: Bill Tuohy, *LA Times*, VP; Joan Graham, *Baltimore Sun*, treasurer; and Bonnie Angelo R.W. Apple, *NY Times*; Myron Belkind, AP; Richard Davies, RKO Radio;

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Who, What, Where

By Rosalind Massow

BIG CHIEF IN LACROSSE . . .

That old Indian game of Lacrosse has brought honor to fellow OPCer **Eliot M. Stark**. He's been named "Man of the Year for Lacrosse 1982" by the U.S. Lacrosse Coaches Ass'n. Stark has been associated with the game for 56 years, first as a player, then promoter. He played with Erasmus High, Rutgers and New York Universities, the New York Lacrosse Club, and even had a professional stint with a Madison Square Garden-backed league.

CELESTE-AL LIAISON . . . Member **Dale Remington** is currently working out details of a new Kaleidoscope TV series with Celeste Holmes. The actress will M.C. "a Portrait of a City," a series of documentaries on U.S. and international cities.

NAMED 'TOWN' CRITIC . . . There's a new by-liner on the drama page of *Town and Village*, the newspaper serving the Peter Cooper/Stuyvesant Town development. **Millicent Brower** has taken on the pleasant task of drama critic. The multi-faceted Millicent is author of "100 Luscious Diet Drinks" to be published in April by Fireside Books, an imprint of Simon and Schuster. For this work she collaborated with her sister Naomi Koshkin.

RECUPERATING . . . **Robert Queen**, who recently had successful by-pass surgery, will be continuing his recuperating at the Belk Institute.

BACK FROM CHINA . . . The **Diamonds, Walter** and his wife Dorothy, are back in New York after an assignment in five major cities in the People's Republic of China.

William J. Wilson, onetime editor of this *Bulletin* and now editing the *Communicator*, the newsletter for the Association section of the Public Relations Society of America, has been elected secretary-treasurer of the section. He is assistant executive VP for the Tax Foundation, a tax watchdog organization.

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Warren R. Young's book, "The Helicopters" has just been published by Time-Life Books. It traces whirlybird development back to China well before the time of Leonardo da Vinci and up through the chopper war in Vietnam.

OPCER **M.D. Morris** has been elected to Tau Beta Pi, the National Engineering Honor Society, for his editorial efforts to bridge the gap between engineering and humanity. It happened at his alma mater, Cornell.

* * *

Flora Schreiber's new book, "The Shoemaker - Anatomy of a Psychotic," published by Simon & Schuster, will be out in May.

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Ever-busy **Herb Silverman** scored recently with a feature on the monks of Chartreuse, a silent order who produce the famed liqueur of that name. It ran in *The New York Times* Sunday business section. And his story on David Springbett, who got into the Guinness Book of Records by flying the Concorde more than anyone else except its crew, ran in the *Dallas Times Herald*.

* * *

OPCER **Gene Boyo**, PR manager for the Olin Corp., has been elected vice-president of the Chemical Communications Association, which is made up of communicators and journalists with an interest in the chemicals industry. In which all OPCers have some interest these days.

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OPCER **Ken Giniger**, who is head of the publishing house of that name, will moderate a seminar on book publishing and the law at the NYU Midtown Center on 42nd Street beginning Feb. 9. There will be nine sessions, 6-8 p.m., Wednesday evenings.

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A copy of the 1981-82 annual report of the Council on Foreign Relations is available in the OPC office for anyone interested.

OPCER **Martin Sheridan**, checking in from his Evanston, Ill., base, reports on recent visits to the Philippines for magazine material, to Costa del Sol and Gibraltar, and finally back home to do one more story on the anniversary — this was the 40th — of Boston's Coconut Grove nightclub fire.

"I was one of the burned but lucky victims," he writes. "I was with cowboy actor Buck Jones that night. I've made more from the anniversary stories I've written through the years than I received for the settlement — everyone received an overwhelming \$110 because the joint didn't have any public liability insurance!

"This is my last anniversary piece."

Sigrid Schultz Papers Sought for Archives

Personal papers and correspondence of the late **Sigrid Schultz**, *Chicago Tribune* Berlin correspondent in the 1920s and 1930s, are being sought for inclusion in an archive of her work. Please reply to M.R. Montgomery, P.O. Box 444, Lincoln, Mass., 01773, or phone collect at the *Boston Globe Sunday Magazine*, (617) 929-2955.

CORRECTION

The last paragraph of **Bill Hieronymus'** piece in the Jan. 1 issue of the *Bulletin* should have read "likely to increase" instead of "unlikely." After visiting the club, Bill is now back in Sao Paulo as South American correspondent for *Agefi International Financing Review*. In Sao Paulo also, Laurel Wentz has been named Latin America staff correspondent for Crain Communications.

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FIRST CLASS